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FEB 16 2010

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO..... 10/726,994  
FILING DATE ..... 3 December 2003  
INVENTOR ..... Kedar R. Belhe  
ASSIGNEE..... St. Jude Medical Puerto Rico LLC  
EXAMINER..... Julian W. Woo  
ART UNIT ..... 3773  
ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO..... 47563.0015  
TITLE..... "Suture Based Vascular Closure Apparatus and Method Incorporating a Pre-Tied Knot"

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

To: Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

From: L. Grant Foster  
HOLLAND & HART LLP  
P.O. Box 11583  
Salt Lake City, UT 84110  
Telephone: (801) 799-5830  
Facsimile: (801) 799-5700

This responds to the Office Action dated 16 November 2009. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

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